

CONFIDENTIAL

LOGNOTE -- Chief, Operations Group, 16 July 1984

3. [] and I met with [] of State's Thai/Burma Desk to discuss next steps on the question of FBIS status in Bangkok. We took the position that the question had been raised as a bureaucratic matter within the Thai Ministry of Communication. The Ambassador appeared ready to try to clear up the matter with the Foreign Ministry and felt he should move fairly soon. We felt the Department ought to tell the Ambassador to proceed in the manner and time of his own choosing. [] said we were very close to the Thais and that he was sure everything would come out alright. The question was how long it would take. He was worried about involving the MFA for fear they would make a major research project out of the issue. He is also concerned about the VOA negotiations and wants to avoid VOA getting entangled in the FBIS issue in some manner in the MFA's thinking. He said MFA had been stalling for unknown reasons, on the new VOA site and that USIA Director Wick had frightened FM Sitthi when he visited here last December. He suggested we might have better luck if we tried to handle the matter at the Ministry of Communications and suggested we give the Ambassador that option in addition to dealing with MFA. We said we supported any approach that would get the matter off dead center. He read [] draft cable, said it looked good and that he would be back to us today to coordinate any alterations.

25X1

25X1

25X1

(cc: D/FBIS, C/MOD, C/ED, C/E&PS, C/Bangkok Bureau)

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1